

HUMAN EVENTS

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Freeman's Secret Mission

Orville Freeman's recent mission to Moscow and the Iron Curtain countries, it now develops, was more than an attempt to look over the "progress" of Soviet agriculture. Reliable information reaching the Capitol indicates the hidden purpose of the secretary of agriculture's visit was to explore ways of opening up trade with the Soviet bloc as part of the new "Spirit of Moscow." After seeing Khrushchev, Freeman is said to have told the President to begin trade negotiations "as soon as possible."

Congressional reaction has reached the boiling point on these reports. Republican Rep. Anchor Nelsen from Freeman's home state of Minnesota says these stories call for "some explaining" by the secretary. Equally disturbing to lawmakers is a news story shedding light on the background of Freeman's trip.

According to an Allen-Scott story, Freeman definitely went to Moscow with the intention of talking trade with Khrushchev. The secretary of agriculture, moreover, was fortified with a significant policy paper on trade. Called "Common Action for the Control of Conflict," this document was prepared by the highly influential Institute of Defense Analysis, headed by Richard Bissel, former Central Intelligence Agency official who played a major role in the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion. Here's what the Bissel plan calls for:

"The United States should be prepared to reduce its restrictions on trade with the Soviet Union.

"The possibility of U. S. assistance in the development of Soviet agriculture should be explored.

"The United States should accept the spread of western technology in the Soviet Union as being in the long-run interests of the United States . . ."